



Traffic Safety News and Facts for Employers October 15, 2007

Michigan News

Outstanding Contributions to Traffic Safety Awards 2007

Each year the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) honors organizations, programs, and/or individuals by presenting awards for outstanding contributions to the traffic safety in Michigan. This is your opportunity to be a participant in the key element of the awards program, that of nominating candidates. This is a chance to honor the best of Michigan's traffic safety community: people who are motivated to seek changes and improvement and who work effectively as an individual or as apart of a team. For more information including a nominee application form link to: http://michigan.gov/documents/msp/GTSAC_form_2007_04_211304_7.pdf All entries must be postmarked on or before December 3, 2007.

Unified Carrier Registration

The new Unified Carrier Registration program, which replaces single state registration, is now up and running. It's now possible for ALL INTERSTATE motor carriers to register online at the Unified Carrier Registration System website [<https://www.ucr.in.gov/>] <https://www.ucr.in.gov/> . The UCRS website provides motor carriers information about the new registration program and instructions for completing the online registration. Michigan motor carriers may also visit the Michigan Public Service Commission webpage [<http://michigan.gov/mpsc/0,1607,7-159-16397-176038--,00.html>] <http://michigan.gov/mpsc/0,1607,7-159-16397-176038--,00.html> for additional information.

Latest Traffic Safety News

Drug-Free Work Week Gives Employers Chance To Talk to Employees about Health, Safety

National Drug-Free Work Week started Oct. 14 and will continue through Oct. 20. Employers are encouraged to participate by providing resources to their workers about the importance of a drug-free workplace and where to seek help for alcohol and drug problems. The U.S. Department of Labor sponsors Drug-Free Work Week and offers supporting materials at <http://www.dol.gov/asp/programs/drugs/workingpartners/DFWW-Introduction.asp>

California Pilot Project Imposes Restrictions for Poor Driver Reaction Times

Six Department of Motor Vehicles offices in California are testing a program designed to identify risky driver impairments. The offices are equipped with machines that measure response times; depending on the results, drivers could receive licenses that restrict them from driving outside of their neighborhood or at certain times of the day. If the pilot goes well, drivers in California could face stricter tests that evaluate vision, memory and reflexes. The DMV expects to have preliminary conclusions by 2010 and a report to the legislature the next year.

Younger Drivers More Likely To Be Involved in Fatal Drunk Driving Crashes

Younger drivers are disproportionately involved in fatal, alcohol-involved crashes, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In 2006 drivers ages 21 to 34 were involved



in 31 percent of all fatal crashes, but that jumped to 43 percent in fatal crashes where at least one driver was drunk. Drivers 45 or older were involved in more fatal crashes, 36 percent, but fewer drunk-driving fatal crashes, 23 percent. These figures indicate that drunk driving prevention messages might be most effective if they're geared toward a younger audience. For more information, go to <http://www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/cesarfax/vol16/16-38.pdf> Source: CESAR Fax, September 24, 2007

Automakers Add Space in Back Seat To Give Adults More Legroom

Some auto manufacturers are making roomier back seats, recognizing that they're being used more frequently by adults rather than children. Honda is lengthening its Accord to add more legroom to the back seat. About 20 percent of sedan drivers say they regularly carry three or more passengers. "The back seat use isn't that frequent, but when it happens, it is very important to people," a Honda employee said. Lexus is adding nearly 5 inches of legroom to one of its sedans, and BMW is adding a few inches between the front and back seats of its Mini Clubman. Dodge's 2008 Grand Caravan features a back seat that swivels to face the third row, so passengers can play cards at a table in between them. The added space is becoming important as drivers trade in their SUVs for smaller, fuel-efficient vehicles. For more information, go to http://www.usatoday.com/money/autos/2007-09-24-backseats_N.htm Source: USA Today, September 24, 2007

Driverless Truck Will Compete at DARPA Contest

Wisconsin company Oshkosh Truck Co. has developed TerraMax, a self-driving vehicle that will compete in the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) contest. At a recent test, TerraMax stopped at a four-way intersection and waited for "traffic" to resolve before proceeding. The DARPA contest is part of Congress' efforts to have one in three combat vehicles drive itself by 2015. "It's my view that we're not just trying to win but we're also trying to advance the topic of safer cars," the Stanford team's leader said. The TerraMax, which looks like an SUV but is twice as high, comes with software Oshkosh designed specifically for the contest. For more information, go to <http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/tech/2007/oct/02/100204751.html> Source: The Associated Press, October 2, 2007

Automakers, Suppliers Show Off New Technology at New Proving Center

Automakers, traffic safety experts and suppliers dedicated the Connected Vehicle Proving Center in Ann Arbor, Mich. at the beginning of October. An alliance between the Center for Automotive Research and the Connected Vehicle Trade Association created the new center, funded by the state. "The facility will be a unique, international showcase, serving as the pinnacle of automotive advancement," the center's director said. At the dedication, Continental Automotive Systems demonstrated how car-to-car and car-to-roadside communication would work in real life. Cars equipped with sensors collect data by radio about weather conditions and hazards on the road. Delphi showed roadside transmitters that could download information wirelessly through the Internet to vehicles. The University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute displayed a prototype car with sensors that alert drivers that they're drifting out of the lane, and GM demoed a similar collision-warning system. Source: Detroit Free Press, October 8, 2007

Tax Breaks Requested for Heavy Truck Safety Technology

The Heavy Duty Manufacturers Association (HDMA) is trying to get a \$1,000 to \$1,500 tax credit as an incentive for fleets to install new safety technologies in heavy commercial vehicles. "The safety systems for heavy trucks today are amazing stuff but also expensive, so we need to find ways to encourage fleets to buy it," HDMA's president and COO said. At a special event for Congress members and traffic safety officials, several manufacturers demoed their heavy truck safety technology. MeritorWabco's Collision Mitigation System uses radar, adaptive cruise control and the



truck's engine and brakes to keep safe following distances between trucks and other vehicles at a cost of about \$2,000 per truck. Delphi showed its integrated radar package that warns drivers about vehicles in their blind spot and imminent collisions. The package can be retrofitted and will cost \$1,500 to \$2,500. Bendix offers an electronic stability program, but currently only 5 percent of new heavy trucks come equipped with it. Source: FleetOwner, October 5, 2007

Volvo Launches New Model and Ad Campaign Centered on Togetherness

The focus of Volvo's new XC70 Cross Country advertisements is friends and family instead of safety features. The spots feature the new tagline "Life is Better Lived Together" and are the first to come from Volvo's new ad agency, Arnold Worldwide. The target buyer is 35-50 years old with no children or an empty nest, making \$100,000 to \$148,000 a year. Volvo's redesigned V70 wagon will debut this fall, but the media campaign won't hit until spring. Moms are the target for that vehicle.

Source: Automotive News, October 1, 2007

Report Card Shows Local Governments Can Improve Traffic Signal Timing

The 2007 National Traffic Signal Report Card gives transportation agencies a grade of D for traffic signal management and timing. Extra time sitting at a red light amounts to 17 billion gallons of gas a year, or \$300 a household. The report card shows how local communities can lower congestion and fuel consumption by changing the way they operate traffic signals. Jurisdictions are improving slightly from the D- grade they received two years ago. The National Transportation Operations Coalition based the report card on an assessment released in fall 2006. For more information, go to

<http://www.ite.org/reportcard/> Source: WTOP Radio, October 9, 2007

Insufficient Sleep, Alcohol Create Dangerous Mix

Lack of sleep plus small amounts of alcohol severely impairs driving ability and increases crash risk, according to a new study. Test subjects using a driving simulator and psychomotor vigilance tests showed that sleep-deprived drivers with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .03% had slower reaction time and more lane/speed variation than when in a rested state at .05. More than half of drivers said they drove drowsy in the past year in the National Sleep Foundation Sleep in America polls. Some drivers may feel they're not at risk as long as their BAC is under .08, but insufficient sleep can make them dangerously impaired. For more information, go to

<http://www.journalsleep.org/ViewAbstract.aspx?citationid=3360> Source: NSF, October 9, 2007

Insurance Institute Offers Tips To Avoid Car-Deer Crashes

Because Ohio has seen an increase in car-deer crashes the past year, the Ohio Insurance Institute suggests several tips to minimize the risk of these crashes. Drivers should be cautious and observe the speed limit on roads with deer-crossing signs. They should be alert, especially after sunset and surrounding dawn from October through spring, when most crashes happen. Drivers should also use high beams after dark, expect more deer when they see one and wear their safety belts. If a crash is unavoidable, drivers should not swerve but maintain control of the car while braking and report the collision.

Survey Shows Alcohol Abuse Rates Haven't Changed

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration released its 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health in September. The government uses the annual survey to determine how many people abuse alcohol and illegal drugs. About 28 percent 12 to 20 year olds reported drinking alcohol in the past month; about 19 percent were binge drinkers and 6 percent drank heavily, about the same since the 2002 survey. Alcohol use for 12 to 17 year olds was nearly 17 percent, binge



drinking was at 10.3 percent and the heavy drinking rate was 2.4 percent, essentially the same as 2005. For more information, go to <http://oas.samhsa.gov/nsduh/2k6nsduh/2k6Results.cfm#3.2>

Officials Devise Two Different Plans for Similar Problems

To reduce congestion and pollution, some local governments are proposing creative solutions. After New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg proposed charging \$8 a day to drive in heavily congested areas of Manhattan, Gov. Eliot Spitzer signed a law that would create a commission to study congestion reduction plans. King County, Wash. officials are taking a different approach by testing Pay-as-You-Drive (PAYD) insurance. By using GPS technology, participating drivers will be monitored and will pay lower premiums if they drive less and outside of rush traffic times. The five-year pilot project will start soon and will track when, where, how much and how fast the 5,000 volunteers drive. The program's goal is to reduce congestion by 12 percent and increase carpooling 5 percent. Whenever drivers are monitored privacy concerns arise, but PAYD will be a voluntary program, and the county will have access only to aggregate data. For more information, go to <http://www.govtech.com/gt/133821> Source: Government Technology, September 1, 2007

Service Alerts Blackberry Users to Commuting Delays in New Jersey

Hand-held devices aren't always a danger on the road—sometimes they're a huge help for the daily commute. Clever Commute, a free service in New Jersey, allows BlackBerry users to post updates on the train lines and other transit systems to their fellow commuters. Travelers who want to check on a certain route before they leave home or the office can use Clever Commute to make sure everything is running smoothly or make other arrangements if a train is late or out of service. The transit systems in big cities send alerts to their users, but the messages are often generic and don't allow for an exchange of information. "When it boils down to it, it's commuters and technology helping other commuters," one Clever Commute user said. For more information, go to http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/08/nyregion/08commute.html?_r=1&ex=1349496000&en=b938990347267a07&ei=5090&partner=rssuserland&emc=rss&oref=slogin Source: New York Times, October 8, 2007

News from USDOT

NHTSA Releases Compendium of Automated Enforcement Results

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration released a report examining automated enforcement systems from around the world. The report also explores the safety effects of deploying the systems. For more information, go to http://www.trb.org/news/blurbs_detail.asp?id=8218

FMCSA To Hold Public Meeting of Medical Review Board

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration will hold a Medical Review Board meeting Oct. 15 to allow the public to observe and join in the deliberations about Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulation medical standards. For more information, go to <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/rules-regulations/administration/rulemakings/notices/E7-15838-MRB-Public-Mtg-8-14-07.htm>

6 States To Receive Grant Money to Speed Construction on Highways

Through the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) "Highways for LIFE" program, six states will receive almost \$5 million to reduce congestion near highway construction sites by cutting the time it takes to complete projects. The grant money will help Maryland, Montana, New York, North Dakota, Utah and Virginia build longer-lasting roads faster. "Reducing traffic congestion is key not only to our nation's quality of life, but also to keeping our economy healthy and internationally competitive," FHWA Administrator J. Richard Capka said. States will spend the money on prefabricated concrete



structures, plastic or polymer compound liners and "whitetopping" to speed projects along. For more information about the "Highways for LIFE" program, go to <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hfl/>

NHTSA Plans To Redesign Crash Tests

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) plans to overhaul its government crash test ratings for cars and trucks. The government's crash tests, called the New Car Assessment Program, started in 1978. The five-star scoring system, which must be displayed on window stickers starting with 2008 models, was added in 1994. Tests are designed for frontal- and side-impact crashes, as well as rollovers. But because most vehicles get high scores, the program doesn't provide much information about vehicles' relative safety. NHTSA will change test speeds and configurations and add tests and injury criteria. "The future of automotive safety is crash avoidance technology," NHTSA Administrator Nicole Nason said. "If you can prevent the crash altogether, that's the ideal." Automakers say they've reached the point where they're making cars as safe as they can be, and the government should focus on driver behavior. Source: Automotive News, September 24, 2007

Law Enforcement, Judicial Branch Participate in National Drunk Driving Crackdown

The "Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest." crackdown took place from Aug. 17 through Sept. 3, one of the riskiest times of the year for alcohol-related fatalities. U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters launched the campaign by asking judges and prosecutors to use every available tool to keep drunk drivers off the road. Thousands of law enforcement agencies in every state stepped up drunk driving patrols, which were supported by an \$11 million advertising campaign. For more information, go to <http://www.stopimpaireddriving.org/tools-campaignheadquarters.htm>

NHTSA Calls on Judges, Prosecutors To Make Repeat Offenders Use Ignition Interlocks

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Chief Nicole Nason met with judges, court staff, safety equipment makers and traffic safety experts to urge use of alcohol ignition interlocks to reduce drunk driving deaths. At the August meeting, Nason asked judges and prosecutors to consider using ignition interlocks more as a penalty for repeat offenders. For more information, click on The Use of Alcohol Ignition Interlocks for Reducing Impaired Driving Recidivism.

Work-Home

Upcoming Drowsy Driving Week Focuses on Young Motorists

Drowsy Driving Prevention Week, Nov. 5-11, coincides with the return to standard time to educate drivers about the dangers of driving while sleepy. Young drivers are a focus of the campaign, because drowsiness is a cause in many fatal crashes involving young drivers. In fact, 15 percent of drivers 17 and younger admit to driving drowsy at least once a week. A toolkit about the public awareness campaign contains press materials, fact sheets, mini-posters, print public service announcements and PowerPoints. To download toolkit materials, go to http://www.sleepfoundation.org/site/c.lqLPIROCKtF/b.3264501/k.4D1C/Drowsy_Driving_Prevention_Week_2007.htm

Teen Records Video about Personal Experience with Inattentive Driving

A teenager who caused a fatal crash by running a red light at an intersection made a video about her experience to urge others to pay attention behind the wheel. "I wasn't drinking or doing drugs or speeding, and I wasn't talking on a cell phone," the 19-year-old from Nebraska said. "I was not paying attention, and it cost a man his life." In addition to getting 36 days in jail, two years of probation and 100 hours of community service, Dacie Hagglund decided on her own to film the three-minute video.



"This particular video is extremely valuable because it covers an area that we don't usually address," the county sheriff said. Some driver education instructors will use the video in their classes, and it will be shown to traffic offenders at defensive driving courses. For more information, go to http://www.omaha.com/index.php?u_page=2798&u_sid=10153554

Source: Omaha World-Herald, October 9, 2007

Teens Pay Attention to Parents while Driving, Repeat Same Behaviors

A Nationwide Insurance study shows that teens mimic their parents' driving habits, both good and bad. According to the national survey, about 82 percent of children ages 10 to 18 pay attention at least half the time to their parents' driving. Most parents said they're safe drivers, but almost as many children said they've watch their parents regularly drive above the speed limit. Many new bad-driving habits have emerged in recent years, such as using iPods, cell phones and GPS, and half the children said they've observed their parents multitask in the car. "Remember, as you are teaching your teen, do as you say," a spokeswoman for Ohio Department of Public Safety said. "If you tell a teen to buckle up, you better buckle up." Another study released this year by the Texas Transportation Institute found that teens whose parents teach them to drive are three times more likely to be in a fatal crash than teens taught in other programs. A possible explanation is that many driving best practices have changed since adults were taught to drive. Source: The Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch, October 2, 2007

TRB Provides Report about Older Drivers in Electronic Format

Transportation in an Aging Society: Improving Mobility and Safety for Older Drivers, the Transportation Research Board's Special Report 218, is now available in an electronic format. First published in 1988, the report explores safety needs of seniors in traffic, possible measures to improve highways and vehicles and assesses public policy questions about costs. It also identifies areas for future research and recommends improvements in highway conditions, licensing, testing and transportation alternatives. For more information, go to http://www.trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=8215

Video Feedback Helps Teen Drivers Adjust Risky Behaviors

The University of Iowa's Public Policy Center recruited 25 drivers from a small high school to participate in research about teen driving. Volunteers' cars were fitted with an "event triggered video system" to see if the monitoring would reduce the teens' risk for crashes. The teens drove for 13 months with the DriveCam system installed behind the rearview mirror. For the first two months, the cameras recorded baseline data. During the next six months, teens knew when they were being recorded because a red light on the camera would flash, and they also received weekly video report cards. At this point, the teens fell into two groups: low frequency and high frequency. When the study was over, the low-frequency group had not changed behavior significantly, but the high-frequency group dropped behaviors that would trigger the camera by 86 percent. In the final eight weeks teens received no feedback about their driving, but they maintained a low number of triggering events. Researchers are now studying urban teens in a Minneapolis suburb. For more information, go to http://www.go-explore-trans.org/2007/sep-oct/driver_dept.cfm Source: Go!, September-October 2007

Teens with ADHD at Greater Risk for Fatal Crashes

Traffic crashes are the biggest killer of 15 to 20 year olds in the United States, and teens with ADHD are at an even greater risk because of deficiencies in attention, impulsivity and risk-taking tendencies. Parents should consider co-existing disorders, variations in medication effectiveness and alcohol/substance use when granting driving privileges. Learning new skills, such as driving, can be difficult for teens with ADHD. Increased responsibility can be overwhelming, so parents need to be patient and take time to supervise their teen drivers. Parents also must get adequate insurance coverage and set up a meeting between their teen and the insurance agent.



California Bans Smoking with Kids in Car

A law that bans California drivers from smoking with children under 18 in the car will go into effect Jan. 1. "Protecting the health of our children is among government's highest responsibilities," state Sen. Jenny Oropeza said. "It is clear that increasing public awareness about the dangers of secondhand smoke is the right thing to do." Violators will be fined \$100. The risk of secondhand smoke in a car is 10 times higher than at home, according to the Harvard School of Public Health.

Source: Join Together, October 11, 2007

Innovative Insurance Programs Track Teen Drivers To Reduce Fatalities

Several insurance companies have developed programs that help parents monitor their teen drivers by use of in-car cameras or global positioning systems. While it's too soon to determine whether the programs are effective, insurers have a stake in reducing the high fatality rate for teens. "It's a unique opportunity for them to help change behavior, which will help them drive down rates, which will make customers happy," one insurance analyst said. Teen Safe Driver by American Family Insurance Co. uses a camera to record audio and video of risky behaviors, and then sends reports to the parents. Preliminary data shows teens in the program have significantly fewer crashes than the national average. Safeco Corp.'s Teensurance offers premium discounts to families who participate in the program, in which parents get automated text messages when their teen drives over the speed limit or shows up at a certain address, for example. For more information, go to

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories//INSURERS_TEEN_MONITORING?SITE=AZPHG&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Source: The Associated Press, October 10, 2007

Driver Training Courses Help Seniors behind the Wheel

Seniors age 70 and older can improve their driving skills by taking refresher classes and behind-the-wheel training, according to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety and Yale University. By 2030, more than 50 million drivers ages 70+ will have valid licenses. In the study, more than 100 drivers who scored below the optimum level on driving performance tests were divided into two groups: one was the control, and the other underwent eight hours of classroom training and two hours behind the wheel. The drivers who received training showed significant improvement. "Senior drivers cherish their mobility and families and health professionals struggle with the issue of how long their loved one or patient should be allowed to drive," AAA Foundation president and CEO said. "This study shows there are ways to improve driving performance of seniors." AAA and other organizations offer senior driver courses, and in 33 states "graduates" can get insurance discounts. The report "Enhancement of Driver Performance Among Older Drivers," is available online at www.aaafoundation.org

Source: AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, October 11, 2007

States Reach out to Young Drivers during First National Teen Driver Safety Week

Congress has designated Oct. 15-20 National Teen Driver Safety Week. The Governors Highway Safety Association is marking the week by co-hosting a Driving Skills for Life program in Los Angeles. About 300 students will learn about hazard recognition, vehicle handling and space management from professional drivers. Other states will celebrate the week by launching safety belt campaigns, airing TV and radio public service announcements and hosting a leadership conference.

Source: Governors Highway Safety Association



International Traffic Safety News

Nissan Uses Navigation Systems to Reduce Pollution, Increase Safety

Nissan has launched an effort to use onboard computers and communications infrastructures to boost gas mileage while improving safety. The goal is to reduce fatalities in Nissan cars to almost zero by 2030 and reduce emissions by 70 percent by 2050. Beijing taxi drivers are testing one application, in which sensors transmit data from other cars about traffic conditions. The system cuts down on carbon dioxide emissions because drivers are going at a steady pace instead of sitting in stop-and-go traffic. The taxis were on the road 20 percent less than other cabs driving similar routes. Nissan's Eco Driving Advice collects information about both the car's and driver's performance, which drivers can view later on their home computer. Nissan is also testing a collision avoidance system, but it will take some time before cars come equipped with the feature. For more information, go to http://www.news.com/Steer-clear-of-accidents%2C-global-warming/2100-11389_3-6211564.html?tag=nefd.top

Source: CNET News, October 4, 2007

Turkey Turns to Psychology To Save Lives on the Road

The field of traffic psychology is fairly new in Turkey, but practitioners are using the approach to encourage drivers to slow down and relax in an attempt to increase safety. Policy makers have long relied on engineering, but traffic psychologists say an understanding of human behavior can lead to fewer crashes and fatalities. Researcher Timo Lajunen is studying how the elderly drive, pedestrian safety around schools and why Turks do or don't wear their safety belts. Turkey's fatality rate is 10 times higher than other European countries, according to the researcher. Environmental design and even the Gross National Product play a role. "The higher the income, the lower the fatality," Lajunen said. Researchers have the challenge to convince Turkish policy makers that traffic deaths are preventable and should not be tolerated. "So far Turks have tolerated the situation and losing lives in accidents has not been seen as a major social problem," Lajunen said. For more information, go to <http://www.turkishdailynews.com.tr/article.php?enewsid=84975>

Source: Turkish Daily News, October 6, 2007

Britain Figures Show Traffic Fatalities, Injuries Falling; Critics Say Numbers are Misleading

Government figures show the number of traffic fatalities and serious injuries in Britain has fallen 33 percent on its baseline 1994-98 average, but some critics say the numbers aren't accurate. They say the real levels of injuries and death are clouded because the police's reporting system is susceptible to structure and reporting changes. The numbers do not match hospital figures for admitted crash victims. The Department for Transport plans to link police and hospital records and says some of the discrepancy is partly because police and doctors don't always agree on the definition of a "serious" injury. Source: FleetNewsNet, October 4, 2007

Campaign Warns Motorist of Rural Road Dangers

Britain's Department for Transport launched its THINK! Rural Speed Campaign to remind drivers they're three times more likely to be killed on a rural road than an urban one. Radio ads advise drivers not to go faster than conditions allow on rural roads. Often crashes on rural roads involve only one vehicle, indicating drivers lose control. Source: FleetNewsNet, October 3, 2007

Court Rules Korean Passengers Partly Responsible for Drowsy Driving Crashes

In Korea, passengers of a drowsy driver can be held liable if a crash causes injury or death. The Seoul High Court ruled that passengers are responsible for keeping the driver awake. The ruling follows a lawsuit filed by a family who was seriously injured in a crash in which the driver fell asleep. "It is a



major trend in the court here that imposing partial responsibility to passengers when a drowsy driver causes a car crash,” a lawyer said. Courts have also ruled that passengers who knowingly ride with a drunk driver bear some responsibility. Korean safety experts suggest passengers roll down the windows to keep the air fresh and take phone calls for the driver. For more information, go to http://koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/nation_view.asp?newsIdx=10835&categoryCode=117
Source: Korea Times, September 26, 2007

Onboard Computers Help Vehicles Advance

Vehicle technology is advancing at a speedy pace. Diagnostic tools easily pinpoint faults for repair, and features like factory-installed GPS, rear-view cameras, Bluetooth communication and voice command could come standard in the next generation of cars. A Heads Up Display (HUD) shows a vehicle's current speed and gives directions without drivers taking their eyes off the road. The next big innovation could be onboard telemetry, which helps drivers navigate to less-congested roads. For more information, go to

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/singaporelocalnews/view/303056/1/.html>

Source: Channel NewsAsia, September 30, 2007

Employers Must Make Sure Foreign Drivers Meet Requirements

Fleet operators thinking about hiring foreign drivers need to make sure the potential employees comply with all regulations before they start work. Foreign employees must be familiar with Britain's driving laws. Eastern European drivers are disproportionately being sent to driver education classes after drunk driving convictions. Employers have to ensure drivers have a valid UK license and register their vehicles right away. They should also be aware of cultural differences and communicate accordingly. Foreign drivers may need materials to be translated in their native language.

Source: FleetNewsNet, October 8, 2007

Government Helps Workers, Employees Plan Travel

After the British government encouraged workers to use personal travel planning (PTP) programs, more people are walking, riding bicycles and using public transportation. PTPs encourage people to consider transportation alternatives, and research shows they cut the number of trips by car by 10 percent. The plans also give local authorities a return on investment. “Lots of people would like to use their cars less and sustainable transport more, but need some help to get them started,” the Transportation Minister said. She is also launching the Essential Guide to Travel Planning, which provides advice to employers on creating a travel plan. For more information, go to www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/travelplans.